Vol.1 No.3

M

This book is intended for readers aged 18 and up. It may contain themes considered “mature.”

ASHES, ASHES

JD MORVAN WALTER REY MACUTAY

JD MORVAN
AUTHOR

REY MACUTAY
ARTIST

WALTER
COLORS

BASED ON THE NOVEL "RAVAGE" BY **RENÉ BARJAVEL**

Translation by Jeremy Melloul
Localization and Editing by Mike Kennedy
Layout and Lettering by Chris Northrop

MAGNETIC™

ISBN: 978-1-951719-12-8
Library of Congress Control Number: 2021909391

Ashes, Ashes by Morvan, Macutay, and Walter, Published 2021 by Magnetic Press, LLC.
Originally published as *Ravage t1-3 © 2016-2019 Editions Glénat – ALL RIGHTS RESERVED*
Adapted from the novel *"Ravage"* by René Barjavel © *Éditions Denoël, Paris, 1943*
MAGNETIC PRESS™, MAGNETIC™, and their associated distinctive designs are trademarks of Magnetic Press, LLC. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this book with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

Printed in China.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

COME ON, OPEN UP!

!!

...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

CALM DOWN, IT'LL BE OVER SOON!

WELL, THIS IS NEW...

MUST BE A BLACKOUT...

NO WAY...

THEY LOOK DEAD...

A BLACKOUT. BLANCHE! THE POWER'S CUT OFF!

BLANCHETTE...

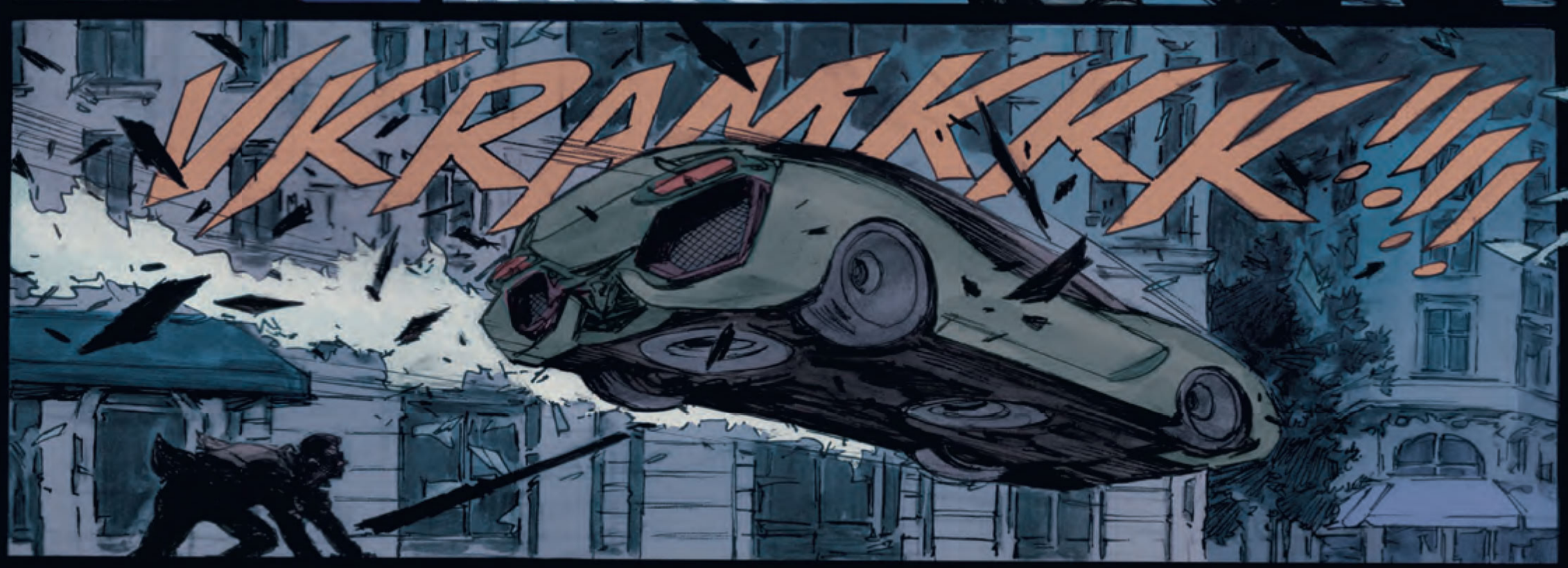
HOW DID YOU GET IN?!

ALL THE DOORS AND WINDOWS UNLOCK AS A SECURITY MEASURE WHEN THE AIR-CONDITIONING IS CUT OFF...

WHAT'S GOING ON...!?

THAT WHISTLING...

OH, NO!


VKRAAKKK!!!

THIS IS A TOTAL BLACKOUT. EVEN THE TRAFFIC SERVERS ARE DOWN...

...THE AUTOPILOTS AREN'T GETTING ANY MORE INSTRUCTIONS!

THAT MEANS...

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE.

THIS IS HORRIFIC...

FRANCOIS, TELL ME YOU'RE OKAY...

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO THINK ABOUT HIM, BLANCHE...!

...THINK ABOUT US!

FOLLOW ME!

LA VILLE
D'OR

BLANCHE...

SHE'S FINE...

I'M SURE SHE'S FINE!

I'M GOING TO GET HER OUT OF THIS MESS!

AND WE'LL BE TOGETHER...

...FOREVER!

MOVE!
LET US THROUGH!
OUT OF THE WAY!
WATCH OUT!
MY SON!
AIR!
YOU'RE CRAZY!
DON'T BLOCK THE PATH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MAN?!
WHERE'S MY SON!?
THE CITY IS DONE FOR!
HAVE YOU SEEN HIM!?
PLEASE, TELL ME YOU'VE SEEN HIM!
I'M SORRY, MA'AM...
WHERE'S MY SON!

AH!

ALMOST THERE!

I CAN SEE THE EXIT!

POOR PEOPLE...

I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR THEM...

UNABLE TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS...

THEY ONLY KNOW HOW TO FOLLOW THE CROWD...

43

65

...

I HAVE TO GET THROUGH...

...NO MATTER WHAT...

HOW'D YOU DO THAT?

BY TAKING RISKS...

73

I'M ALMOST THERE...

...NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW...

?!

GIVE HIM BACK TO ME, PLEASE...

BLANCHETTE!? IT'S ME, FRANCOIS!

THE DOOR IS OPEN, BUT THE FRAME IS BENT...

...I CAN'T OPEN IT FROM OUTSIDE...

DO YOU HEAR ME?!

I'M COMING...

BLANCHETTE!

BLANCHETTE, SAY SOMETHING, PLEASE...

HMM...

...FRANCOIS?

YOU'RE ALIVE!

THANK GOD!

YOU TOO.

I WAS SO AFRAID.

THE BLACKOUT. THE FLYING CARS, THE PLANE...

...FRANCOIS... WHAT'S GOING ON!?

THE ENTIRE ELECTRICITY GRID WENT OUT AT ONCE.

SOME SORT OF GIANT SURGE, MAYBE.

EVEN THE EMERGENCY GENERATORS SEEM TO HAVE FAILED.

NO IDEA WHAT CAUSED IT... AN ACCIDENT, TERRORISTS OR SOMETHING... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW ANYTHING. ALL OF THE INFORMATION NETWORKS ARE DOWN, TOO.

IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN SOMEDAY...

HUMANITY NEVER SHOULD HAVE TRADED IT'S DESTINY FOR PROGRESS...

YOU THINK WE SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN CAVES EATING BERRIES?

WE CREATED ALL OF THIS TO PROTECT OURSELVES FROM A HOSTILE WORLD THAT WAS KILLING US!

ICE AGES, DROUGHTS, PREDATORS, FAMINE, FOOD POISONING, DISEASE...

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT...

THEN TELL ME WHEN WE SHOULD HAVE STOPPED, EXACTLY?

MAYBE WHEN MAN WAS FINALLY ABLE TO LEARN EVERYTHING HE NEEDED TO GET BY....

THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT!

OH, RIGHT, THAT TIME WHEN PEOPLE WERE STILL THE PLAYTHINGS OF ARISTOCRATS AND THE CLERGY!

YOU'LL NOTICE THAT ASIDE FROM THE UNFORTUNATE RESURGENCE OF FUNDAMENTALISM OVER THE PAST CENTURY, WE DON'T HAVE THOSE PROBLEMS ANY MORE!

MAN FORGOT ABOUT MORALITY AND MADE GODS OUT OF THEIR LEADERS AND ELITES!

AND THIS IS THE RESULT!

YOU'RE TALKING NONSENSE, BOY.

YOU'RE DRAWING CONCLUSIONS FROM AN ACCIDENT.

A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT, SURE, BUT OUR PROGRESS WILL ALLOW US TO HEAL OUR WOUNDS AND TAKE CARE OF THE SURVIVORS.

IN A FEW YEARS, THIS CITY WILL BE EVEN GREATER THAN IT WAS YESTERDAY.

WHAT'S MAKES YOU SURE THAT HELP IS ON THE WAY?

WHAT IF THE ENTIRE WORLD HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY THIS CATASTROPHE?

I DON'T BELIEVE IN DIVINE PUNISHMENT, BUDDY.

I'M NOT YOUR BUDDY.

OKAY, OKAY. THAT'S REASSURING.

...

FRANCOIS, DON'T!

YOU SENT ME THAT TEXT BEFORE THIS WHOLE CATASTROPHE...

...AND SINCE YOU TWO WERE ALONE, HE MUST HAVE...

CALM DOWN, MAN.

I WAS DRUNK...

WERE YOU DRUNK WHEN YOU HAD ME ERASED FROM THE GRADUATES LIST?!

I WAS TOP OF MY CLASS!

I... I WAS JEALOUS! OBVIOUSLY YOU WERE, TOO! YOU KNOW... IT MAKES US STUPID!

THE GIRL'S TALENTED! I WANTED TO MAKE HER A STAR...

WANTED HER TO TAKE OFF...

WHICH WASN'T TO YOUR LIKING, I GET IT...

WHAT'D SHE TELL YOU?!

YOU'RE RIGHT, BLANCHETTE...

PLEASE, FRANCOIS! IT'S ALL IN THE PAST NOW!

WE HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!

I KNOW A WAY OUT...

IF ALL THE FLYING VEHICLES FELL, IT'S BECAUSE THEY WERE ON AUTOPILOT...

WHEN THE POWER WAS KILLED, THE TRAFFIC TERMINALS COULDN'T CONTROL THEM ANYMORE.

BUT I LEARNED TO FLY MANUALLY... AND MY JET IS STILL INTACT!

I'VE GOT ENOUGH GAS TO GET US TO A DIFFERENT CITY OUTSIDE THE DISASTER ZONE.

COME WITH ME, BLANCHE! I'LL GET YOU OUT OF THIS.

LEAVE THE COUNTRY IF WE HAVE TO.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET DOWN, FRANCOIS?

THE ONLY WAY DOWN IS THE STAIRCASE I TOOK UP HERE...

YOUR FUNERAL, THEN!

TOO BAD...

WHAT?!

ARE YOU SURE?

IT'LL BE TRICKY AND COULD TAKE A LONG TIME...

...BUT I'LL HELP YOU, BLANCHETTE.

EXIT

I HAD LOST HOPE...

THANK YOU, FRANCOIS.

WE'LL PASS THROUGH THE GREENHOUSE WALKWAY TO GET HOME.

YOU WANT TO DO SOME SIGHTSEEING?

NOT AT ALL. IT'S JUST TO PROTECT US FROM ANYTHING THAT COULD FALL ON OUR HEADS.

ISN'T THERE A SHORTCUT?

THIS WAY IS SAFER.

I CAN'T KEEP GOING...

I'LL CARRY YOU.

30
P
6
6

I'M LUCKY YOU WERE THERE... I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CARRY BLANCHE ALL THE WAY HOME ON MY OWN.

...I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M TALKING TO A HORSE NOW...

JUST DON'T MAKE ANY NOISE, AND NOBODY WILL WANT YOUR MEAT.

NOBODY'LL GUESS THERE'S A HORSE IN THE GARAGE.

HOW IS SHE, DOCTOR FAUQUE?

YOU DID WELL TO CALL ME AS SOON AS YOU GOT HOME. BUT DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS...

...AT LEAST COMPARED TO EVERYTHING ELSE THAT'S HAPPENED AROUND US.

JUST A VASOVAGAL ATTACK. A LITTLE REST AND...

...SHE'LL BE BACK ON HER FEET FASTER THAN THE CITY.

"IF IT LASTS YOU'LL BE BETTER OFF WITH ATROPINE IN HAND..."

COPS!

POLICE

POLICE

POLICE

POLICE

PUBLIC NOTICE!

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ASK THE PEOPLE OF PARIS TO REMAIN CALM.

ALL MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN TO SECURE FOOD SUPPLIES AND DRINKING WATER.

THE PUBLIC WILL BE MADE AWARE OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS AT LOCAL GROCERY STORES.

ANY ACTS OF LOOTING WILL BE PUNISHABLE BY DEATH.

POLICE

CRRING !

BRIZZ !

SO, ARE THINGS SETTLING DOWN OUTSIDE?

THE OPPOSITE. I FEEL LIKE SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST WILL BECOME THE LAW OF THE LAND.

AND THE BLACKOUT. WHAT CAUSED IT?

HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO KNOW?

NO NEED TO GET MAD, IT WAS JUST A QUESTION.

BUT SERIOUSLY, WITHOUT ANY ELECTRICITY, NOBODY HAS ANY ACCESS TO THE MEDIA...

EVERYTHING WENT THROUGH THE SAME NETWORKS. EVERYTHING SHUT DOWN AT THE SAME TIME AS THE CENTRAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM...

THE AUTHORITIES PUT SO MUCH TRUST IN TECHNOLOGY THEY DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER OFFERING CITIZENS THEIR OWN PERMITS...

IT'S OKAY.

I'M SORRY, BLANCHETTE. IT'S HELL OUT THERE. MY NERVES ARE FRAYED AND I...

I FORGIVE YOU.

THANK YOU. YOU DON'T DESERVE THIS.

DID JEROME SEITA?

I DON'T CARE.

DEAD OR ALIVE, DON'T THINK I'M JEALOUS OF THAT LITTLE MAN.

YOU'RE MY BLANCHETTE. I WON'T LET ANYONE ELSE TAKE YOU FROM ME.

IF EVENTS HADN'T GONE THE WAY THEY DID, I WOULD'VE BEEN THE ONE TO STOP YOUR WEDDING.